

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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R 291417Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8642

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4101

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SCUL NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PLAQUE PRESENTATION BY FRISIAN GROUP

REF: STATE 185333

1. LEEUWARDEN CITY AUTHORITIES TELL US THAT SINGELSMA AND GROUSTRA ARE REPUTABLE INDIVIDUALS, THE FORMER BEING A MEMBER OF THE FRISIAN NATIONAL PARTY AND HOLDING A SEAT ON THE LEEUWARDEN CITY COUNCIL AND IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. FRISIAN MOVEMENT IS MODERATE GROUP WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL AFFILIATION REPRESENTING HISTORIC FRISIAN NATIONAL AND CULTURAL VALUES.

2. SINCE WW II THERE HAS BEEN RENEWED INTEREST IN THE PROVINCE OF FRIESLAND IN HISTORY AND CULTURE OF REGION, WITH EMPHASIS ON MAINTAINING FRISIAN LANGUAGE, INCLUDING HAVING IT TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS. MOVEMENT IS NOT, HOWEVER, SECESSIONIST AND HAS NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE ON NATIONAL SCALE.

3. IT WAS FRIESLAND THAT RECOGNIZED JOHN ADAMS AS US MINISTER IN 1782, AN ACTION WHICH WAS FOLLOWED LATER BY STATES GENERAL HOLLAND AT THE TIME US WAS GAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE. COMMEMORATION OF THIS EVENT IS INTENDED AS FRIENDLY GESTURE TOWARD US AND RECOGNITION ON OUR PART WOULD FIT WELL WITH COUNTRY OBJECTIVES.

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4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SEE NO OBJECTION TO

HAVING GROUP RECEIVED AT WHITE HOUSE AND, FACT,
BELIEVE THIS SHOULD BE DONE IF POSSIBLE. WHITE HOUSE
PRESENTATION WOULD NO DOUBT RECEIVE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY,
AT LEEAST LOCALLY. SUGGEST DUTCH JOURNALISTS COVERING
US BE INVITED, AS WELL AS US WIRE SERVICES. USIA FOREIGN
PRESS CENTERS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK CITY CAN PASS THE
WORD TO THE DUTCH JOURNALISTS.
BROWN

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